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SAN RAFAEL, CAL.

SIR: My anti-war convictions break forth once in a while, as you will see by referring to an article on page 2 of *The Tocsin*, which I am mailing you today. From your paper, the ADVOCATE OF PEACE, I have stolen some good thoughts, as you will see.

I wish to express my pleasure in reading your contributions and others, and to say that, in my poor judgment, the work could not be better done. I am glad that men of no ordinary ability are enlisted in the cause.

If the Goths and vandals of modern times threaten us with invasion, we must be prepared with weighty peace arguments, for they will outlive all other kinds of preparation. The great battles are drawn battles at best.

Yours very truly,

HILAND A. MOORE.

BOOK REVIEWS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

ALL BOOKS LISTED ON THIS PAGE MAY BE OBTAINED, POSTAGE PREPAID, UPON APPLICATION TO THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY, COLORADO BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

War the Creator. By *Gelett Burgess*. B. W. Huebsch, New York. 1916. 96 p. 60 cents.

This is the story of "*Coco*" *Cucurrow*, the boy, and of how he became in the space of two months *Georges Cucurrow* the man, the war-hardened soldier, the veteran of the great retreat on Paris in the first days of the war. To the writer this brief but vivid story illustrates not only the folly and the bitterness of war, but also what he chooses to call "War the Creator." In the space of two months he had the privilege of seeing a raw youth made into a man. Here he saw accomplished in a short time what we might see accomplished in any man's life between the years of eighteen and thirty, were we able to view that period of time as a whole and wholly impersonally. War is thus shown as a great accelerator of human activity. Were this all that there is to see in this marvelously entertaining tale of actual experience, such acceleration might well seem to be considered a singular advantage. But *Georges Cucurrow*, wounded, incapacitated (at least temporarily) for useful citizenship, wounded and embittered in spirit by the scenes and the experiences that he cannot forget, who begs his interviewer to question him no longer about the charge at Le Misnel. "Our men after them, sticking them like pigs. . . . The sight of it made me sick. . . . Isn't that enough M'sieur? I can't bear to think about it!" This is a man, full grown, sophisticated, on a par in experience of life's horrors with many non-combatants of thirty or forty, but with something in him shattered, something clouded and tarnished by what he has gone through. The fierce emotions and the tremendous experience of his brief period of accelerated growth are over. He faces now his entrance into the life of peaceful, useful effort, and he faces it handicapped. He has gained much, but lost more.

Battle and Other Poems. By *Wilfred Wilson Gibson*. The Macmillan Co., New York. 1916. 198 p. \$1.25.

This volume consists of war poems, lyrics, and short poems in dialog called by the author, "dramatic poems." Of the last-mentioned, "Winter Dawn" and "Stonefolds" are the most poignant as well as the more dramatic in quality. Of the lyrics perhaps the best are the four love-sonnets entitled "Home," unless we include that remarkable sonnet-picture "Color" with the unforgettable lines—

"A blue-black Nubian plucking oranges
At Jaffa by a sea of malachite. . . ."

The war poems are powerful in their simplicity and brief pathos, barring a slight monotony in method—constant stress on the trivialities of peace obsessing the soldier's mind in the din of battle. One, slightly variant in this respect, but characteristic of the rest and surely the best of all of them, is "The Return" as follows:

He went, and he was gay to go;
And I smiled on him as he went.
My son—'twas well he couldn't know
My darkest dread, nor what it meant—

Just what it meant to smile and smile
And let my son go cheerily—
My son . . . and wondering all the while
What stranger would come back to me.

Bushido. By *Inazo Nitobé*, Professor in the Imperial University of Kyoto. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. 1905. 193 p., with index. \$1.25.

A sympathetic understanding of the temperament of an alien people is part and parcel of the broader pacifism. In the case of Japan, we have a nation which is often antipodean in temperament to ourselves. Understanding will therefore naturally progress but slowly between us. The philosophy of *Bushido* is perhaps one of the most necessary characteristics of the Japanese for the Westerner to comprehend, for, although the ancient *bushi* are no more, the ideals of their philosophy and their laws of chivalrous conduct descend to and permeate the race of today. "Chivalry is a flower no less indigenous to the soil of Japan," says Professor Nitobé, "than its emblem, the cherry blossom . . . it is a living object of power and beauty among us; and if it assumes no tangible shape or form, it not the less scents the moral atmosphere, and makes us aware that we are still under its potent spell." In its prime, it gave what Taine has called, referring to the contemporary heroes of Italy, "the vigorous initiative, the habit of sudden resolutions and desperate undertakings, the grand capacity to do and to suffer." Its several virtues are treated with particularity and much enchanting detail by the author. These virtues, we may perhaps be surprised to find, are those of the best in Christianity; justice, courage, benevolence, politeness, truth and sincerity, loyalty, honor, self-control. The reader will find these chapters not alone informative. The graceful style of the author and his devotion to his subject render them delightful reading as well.

The Japanese Nation, Its Land, Its People, and Its Life. By *Inazo Nitobé*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. 1912. 330 p., with map and index. \$1.50.

As a sympathetic analysis of Japanese character and social life this volume is as valuable in the understanding of our Western neighbors as is that reviewed above. Further interest is lent, also, by several chapters devoted to a review of the relations between the writer's country and our own. Here the history of these relations from before Admiral Perry's time are reviewed. In his last chapter, "American Influence in the Far East," Professor Nitobé, asks a pertinent question. By our early relations with Japan, in which we presented ourselves as a nation desiring no hard-wrung profit, but as a people intent on world welfare, we attained the respect and admiration of Japan to a degree little realized in this country. Has America now "sold her birthright of world-moderatorship and of Asiatic guardianship for a pottage of tropical islands?" His conclusion, which warrants careful perusal, is that this the future policies of this country must decide. At present Japan, the real Japan,